

CLAIMS:

1. A method of analysing and reformatting a passage of text, comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) identifying words in the passage of text representing different parts of speech;
- (b) grouping at least some of the identified words into discrete units representing discrete linguistic phrases, so as to
- 10 generate a partially analysed text passage;
- (c) identifying logically significant conjunctions within the said partially analysed text passage; and
- (d) reformatting the passage of text that has
- 15 been analysed so as to reveal the logical structure thereof.

2. The method of claim 1, in which the step of identifying words in the passage of text representing different parts of speech comprises employing a

20 statistical analysis upon the words in the passage of text so as to determine a most likely part of speech category for each word.

25 3. The method of claim 2, in which the step of performing a statistical analysis comprises performing Hidden Markov Modelling upon the passage of text to be analysed.

30 4. The method of claim 1, in which the steps of grouping at least some of the identified words into discrete units comprises grouping at least some of the identified words into a first set of intermediate phrases on the basis of a first predetermined finite

35 set of linguistic rules.

5. The method of claim 4, in which the first set of intermediate phrases includes a phrase selected

from the list comprising a noun phrase and a verb phrase.

5 6. The method of claim 4, in which the step of
grouping at least some of the identified words into
discrete units further comprises grouping at least some
of the intermediate phrases into a second set of final
phrases on the basis of a second predetermined finite
set of linguistic rules, such that a selected one of
10 the final phrases in the said second set is made up of
a plurality of intermediate phrases from the said first
set.

15 7. The method of claim 6, in which the step of
grouping the intermediate phrases into the second set
of final phrases is carried out through finite state
analysis.

20 8. The method of claim 1, in which the step of
identifying logically significant conjunctions
comprises the step of searching for predetermined
phrase patterns from within the said partially analysed
text passage.

25 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising,
after the said step of identifying logically
significant conjunctions in the partially analysed text
passage, the steps of:

30 identifying a grammatically appropriate location
for inserting of a second part of a two part
conjunction within the passage of text to be analysed,
when such second part of the said conjunction is not
already present; and

35 automatically inserting at the identified
location, an indicator into the reformatted passage of
text when the text is displayed, the said indicator
indicating that the said second part of the conjunction
should be present there.

10. The method of claim 1, in which the passage of text is stored in electronic form on a digital computer, the method further comprising, prior to the step (a) of identifying words representing different parts of speech, the steps of:

receiving the passage of text to be analysed in electronic form; and

tokenising the received passage of text to identify separate sentences and paragraphs.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising, after the step (c) of identifying logically significant conjunctions, the step of:

inserting formatting information into the passage of text in electronic form so that, when displayed, the logically significant conjunctions are distinguishable from the remaining text.

12. A computer readable medium upon which is recorded a software routine for carrying out the method of claim 1.